

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SITE FILE COPY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Waldo Water Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Frank T. Riley Memorial

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Tower Park  
75th Street and Holmes Road

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5 - Hon. Richard Bolling

STATE

Missouri 64131

CODE

29

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

095

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☐ ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Water Department  
City of Kansas City

STREET &amp; NUMBER

414 E. 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64106

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of Recorder of Deeds  
Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET &amp; NUMBER

415 E. 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. American Water Landmarks

DATE

1975

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

American Water Works Association

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80235

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WALDO WATER TOWER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri Survey  
1975-1976

local

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

3. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1975-1976

state

Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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feet wide and six inches deep, extend the height of the standpipe. Above the pilasters is a frieze enriched with cavetto molding and shield-shaped brackets. The brackets, which terminate each pilaster, are flanked by a single, stepped block. These brackets visually support an ornamental balcony which projects three feet from the shaft. The crenelated wall, 4'6" high, which encircles the balcony has an undecorated stringcourse around the base.

Behind the balcony rise the walls of the twelve-sided superstructure. Each wall is pierced by a round-arched window opening. Above is a graduated linear stringcourse and a crenelated parapet.

The roof is flat.

An iron ladder, affixed to the east wall, extends upward to the superstructure. Only one of two original iron balconies remains intact.

The walls of the tower are of monolithic construction. Those of the standpipe are 18 inches thick; the walls of the superstructure are 12 inches thick. The balcony and parapet walls have a thickness of eight inches.

Along the entire height of the shaft the walls are reinforced with circumferential square bars which vary in size every ten feet as follows:

- 1-1/4 inch bars, placed 4 inches apart from center to center (62 bars)
- 1-1/4 inch bars, placed 4-1/2 inches apart from center to center (54 bars)
- 1-1/4 inch bars, placed 4-3/4 inches apart from center to center (50 bars)
- 1-1/4 inch bars, placed 5-1/2 inches apart from center to center (44 bars)
- 1-1/4 inch bars, placed 6-3/8 inches apart from center to center (40 bars)
- 1-1/8 inch bars, placed 6 inches apart from center to center (38 bars)
- 1-1/8 inch bars, placed 7-1/8 inches apart from center to center (34 bars)
- 1 inch bars, placed 7-1/8 inches apart from center to center (34 bars)
- 3/4 inch bars, placed 5-1/2 inches apart from center to center (44 bars)
- 3/4 inch bars, placed 8 inches apart from center to center (30 bars)
- 5/8 inch bars, placed 11 inches apart from center to center (22 bars).

These bars are placed horizontally. They are secured by notched angle irons placed 12 feet apart. From the bottom, the angle irons measure 2"x2"x3/16" (first to fifth rings), 1-3/4"x1-3/4"x3/16" (sixth and seventh rings), and 1-1/2"x1-1/2"x3/16" (eighth to the eleventh rings). Between the angle irons are vertical 5/8-inch square guide bars placed two feet apart from center to center. The size of the base and the angle irons and guide bars are not given for the superstructure.

The concrete walls of the standpipe are mixed in the proportions of 1:1-1/2:3; the proportions of the mixture used in the superstructure are 1:2:4. In pouring the walls,

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After draining and cleaning the interior, two coats of "Stark's Waterproof Paint and Cement Putty" were applied. The asphaltum filler was removed; a coat of "Johns Manville Concrete Primer" was applied to the base and a short distance up the wall. After this set, a five-ply waterproofing membrane was applied. The first two plies consisted of No. 14 impregnated asbestos felts mopped in hot, self-healing cement; a third layer of saturated mule hide membrane was followed by another two plies of impregnated asbestos felts mopped in hot, self-healing cement. This material covered the floor, the recess, and extended a short distance up the side walls. Additional hot, self-healing cement was poured into the space remaining at the recess.

There was no further leakage.

WALDO PUMPING STATION

Waldo Pumping Station is situated to the east-northeast of the water tower. Designed by Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers, the building is rectangular in plan with one story above ground and three underground. The exterior walls of the reinforced concrete building are faced with red brick. Maximum dimensions are approximately 73 feet along the east-west axis and 42.5 feet north-south. The flat roof is surfaced with tar and gravel; there are two roof fans. Openings include bands of casement windows extending the length of the building near the roof line on the north and south facades of the main pump room (north portion of the station) and entrances on the east and south (south wing) facades and east (north portion of the station) facade.

The interior of the south wing is divided into three sections: an entranceway, storage, and offices. The main pump room, designed to hold six pumps, presently houses five 540 horsepower pumps. Four pumps were installed at the time of construction (1955-57); a fifth pump now under installation will be in operation by the end of 1976. The present pumping capacity of the station is 48 million gallons daily.<sup>4</sup>

A chain link fence encloses the pumping station building.

FOOTNOTES

1. Annual Report of the Board of Fire and Water Commissioners (Kansas City, Missouri, year ending April 19, 1920).
2. T.D. Samuel, Jr., "Concrete Standpipe for 110 Ft. Head at Kansas City," Engineering News-Record, Vol. 85, No. 18 (October 28, 1920), pp. 841-843. (All of the following technical information on the physical description of the Waldo Water Tower is taken from this article written by the Chief Draftsman of the Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri.)

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unusual continuous 14-day pouring.

The Finton Construction Company, the contractors for the tower, appear in the Kansas City, Missouri, city directories in 1917. The president of the company was Walter L. Finton. In 1921 the company's name was changed to the Finton Engineering Company. It was not listed in 1922.<sup>14</sup>

Frank Teal Riley, for whom the tower was originally named, was the owner of the site upon which the tower was erected. He was a well-known Kansas Citian. Born October 2, 1873, Riley was a graduate of the University of Nebraska, where he was a member of the Delta Tau fraternity. For over 21 years he was in the publishing business in Kansas City. At the time of his death, he was the owner and president of the Frank T. Riley Publishing Company, a well-known firm which published law briefs and commercial work. Active fraternally, he was a member of the Rotary and the Kansas City Athletic Club; Riley was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason.<sup>15</sup> Riley died May 7, 1920 and is buried in Mount Washington Cemetery, Independence, Missouri.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, purchased the land for the water tower from Riley and his wife, Grace Morgan Riley, for \$14,000.<sup>16</sup>

The Waldo Water Tower received its present name from the surrounding neighborhood and nearby business district.

Around the turn of the century, Waldo was a station for the Dodson Dummy Line, a small interurban railroad. Although it had a postmaster from 1899 until 1902, Waldo never grew into a town. In 1909 the area was annexed to Kansas City, Missouri. The name has endured.

David Waldo, the man after whom the area was named, was, in the 1870's, the owner of the land on which the later station was sited. Born in 1802, Waldo was variously a doctor, a Santa Fe freighter and banker, and a wealthy Jackson County, Missouri, landowner. He died in 1878 of an overdose of morphine.<sup>17</sup>

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The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Waldo Water Tower is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Technology."

FOOTNOTES

1. Horizontal Control Data by the Coast and Geodetic Survey: North American 1927 Datum (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, revised 1969).
2. Statement by personnel of the Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri, personal interview by Edward J. Miszczuk, September 29, 1976.
3. Statement by Herbert Brackney (employee of the Parks and Recreation Department, Kansas City, Missouri), personal interview by James A. Ryan, December 14, 1974.
4. Statement by H.E. Snider (Assistant Director, Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri), personal interview by James A. Ryan, February 20, 1975.
5. The Tifft Construction Company is no longer in business. Efforts to uncover information in Buffalo, New York, have not been successful.
6. Ernest L. Ransome and Alexis Saurbrey, Reinforced Concrete Buildings (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1912), p. 18.
7. Ibid., p. 28.
8. Ibid., p. 33.
9. This committee was composed of committees from the following organizations: American Society of Civil Engineers, American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association, American Society for Testing Materials, and the Association of American Portland Cement Manufacturers.
10. H.B. Andrews, Andrews Designers' Charts for Reinforced Concrete (Melrose, Massachusetts: H.B. Andrews, 1916).
11. M. Patricia Holmes, "Compton Hill Water Tower," National Register Inventory-Nomination Form, June, 1972.
12. T.D. Samuel, Jr., "Concrete Standpipe for 110 Ft. Head at Kansas City," Engineering News-Record, Vol. 85, No. 18 (October 28, 1920), p. 841.

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WALDO WATER TOWER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

13. Andrews, p. 11.
14. Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1916), p. 686; Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1917), p. 1076; Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1918), p. 1020; Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1919), p. 1058; Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1920), p. 1070; Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1921), p. 1164; and Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1922), p. 1152.
15. "Deaths in Kansas City," Kansas City [Missouri] Times, May 8, 1920, p. 2.
16. City Deed No. 1813, Book #1929, p. 307 (Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex, Kansas City, Missouri); and Warranty Deed No. 1298179, Book #1929, p. 307 (Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex, Kansas City, Missouri).
17. Rudolph Umland, "Waldo, The Man Behind It," The City Window (February/March, 1974), p. 18.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Annual Report of the Board of Fire and Water Commissioners. Kansas City, Missouri, year ending April 19, 1920.
2. Andrews, H.B. Andrews Designers' Charts for Reinforced Concrete. Melrose, Massachusetts: H.B. Andrews, 1916.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 36,300,0 4,31,66,7,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. James A. Ryan, Curator of Collections

ORGANIZATION

Kansas City Museum of History and Science

DATE

January 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

3218 Gladstone Boulevard

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64123

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources,  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6 JAN 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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WALDO WATER TOWER

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Brackney, Herbert (employee of the Parks and Recreation Department, Kansas City, Missouri). Personal interview by James A. Ryan. December 14, 1974.
4. City Deed No. 1813, Book #1929, p. 307. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex, Kansas City, Missouri.
5. Data derived from plans drawn by Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers, December 12, 1955. (In the possession of the Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri.)
6. "Deaths in Kansas City," Kansas City [Missouri] Times, May 8, 1920, p. 2.
7. Holmes, M. Patricia. "Compton Hill Water Tower," National Register Inventory-Nomination Form, June, 1972.
8. Horizontal Control Data by the Coast and Geodetic Survey: North American 1927 Datum. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, revised 1969.
9. Kansas City, Missouri, City Directory. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1916, p. 686.
10. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1917, p. 1076.
11. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1918, p. 1020.
12. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1919, p. 1058.
13. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1920, p. 1070.
14. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1921, p. 1164.
15. \_\_\_\_\_. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Co., 1922, p. 1152.
16. Kansas City [Missouri] Star, September 5, 1955, p. 18A.
17. Kansas City [Missouri] Times, May 8, 1919, p. 5.
18. \_\_\_\_\_, May 12, 1919, p. 5.
19. \_\_\_\_\_, November 28, 1956, p. 25.
20. Personnel of the Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri. Personal interview by Edward J. Miszczuk. September 29, 1976.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

21. Ransome, Ernest L., and Alexis Saurbrey. Reinforced Concrete Buildings. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1912.
22. Samuel, T.D., Jr. "Concrete Standpipe for 110 Ft. Head at Kansas City," Engineering News-Record, Vol. 85, No. 18 (October 28, 1920), pp. 841-843.
23. Snider, H.E. (Assistant Director, Water Department, Kansas City, Missouri). Personal interview with James A. Ryan. February 20, 1975.
24. Umland, Rudolph. "Waldo, The Man Behind It," The City Window (February/March, 1974), p. 18.
25. Warranty Deed No. 1298179, Book #1929, p. 307. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex, Kansas City, Missouri.

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WALDO WATER TOWER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. M. Patricia Holmes, Research Associate  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
October, 1975
3. Edward J. Miszczuk, Chief Research Historian  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
October, 1976
4. Nancy B. Breme, Architectural Historian  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
January 5, 1977

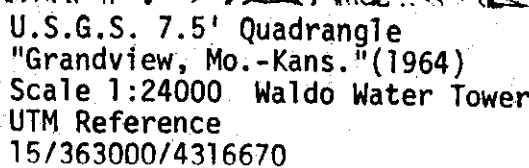
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Waldo Water Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Frank T. Riley Memorial

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jackson

STATE

Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S.

7.5'

Grandview Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1970

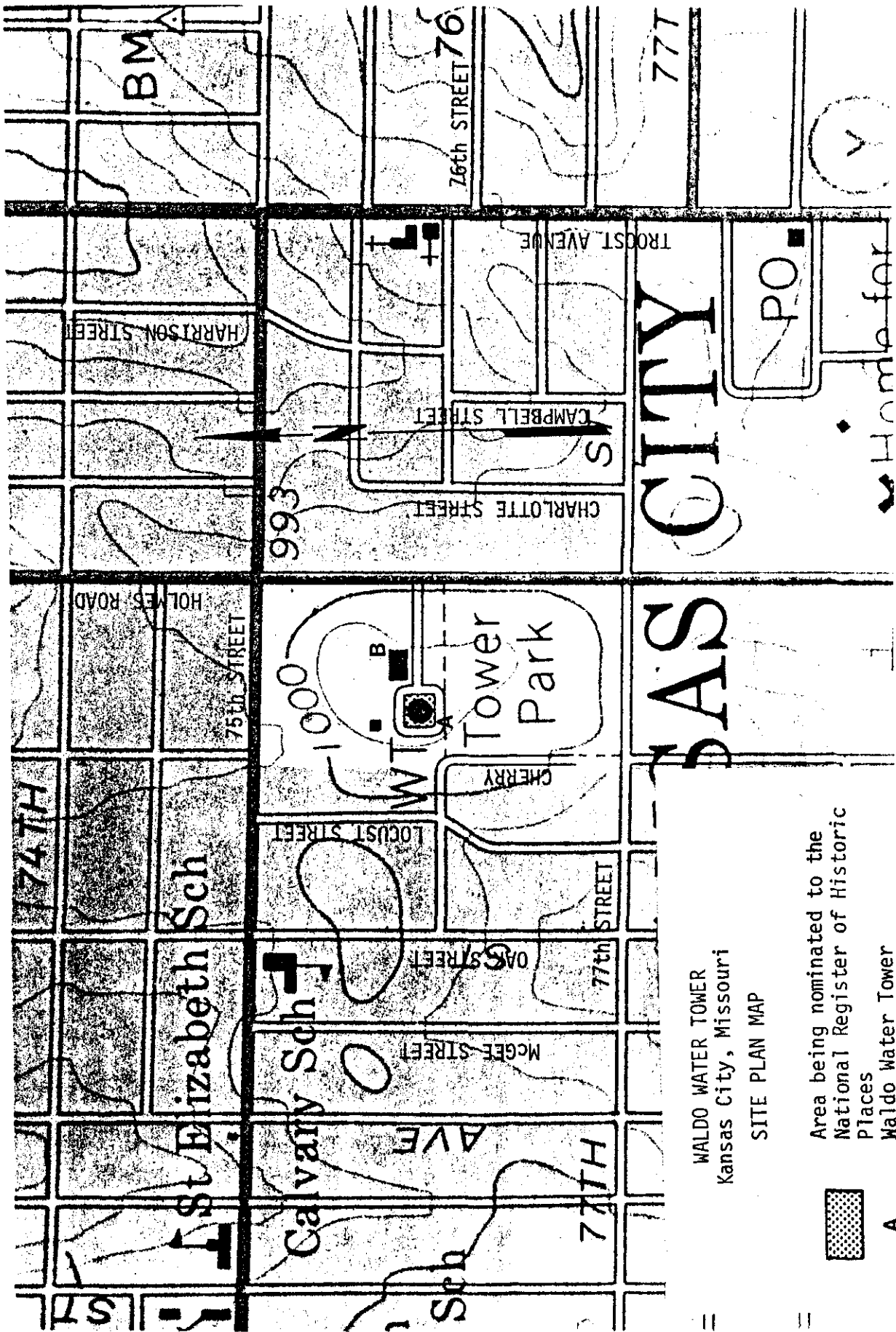
**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

2. NORTH ARROW

3. UTM REFERENCES



WALDO WATER TOWER  
Kansas City, Missouri

# SITE PLAN MAP

Area being nominated to the  
National Register of Historic  
Places

Waldo Water Tower  
Waldo Pumping Station



A B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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Waldo Water Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Frank T. Riley Memorial

### 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jackson

STATE Missouri

### 3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S.

7.5'

Grandview Quadrangle

SCALE

Not to scale

DATE

November, 1976

### 4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

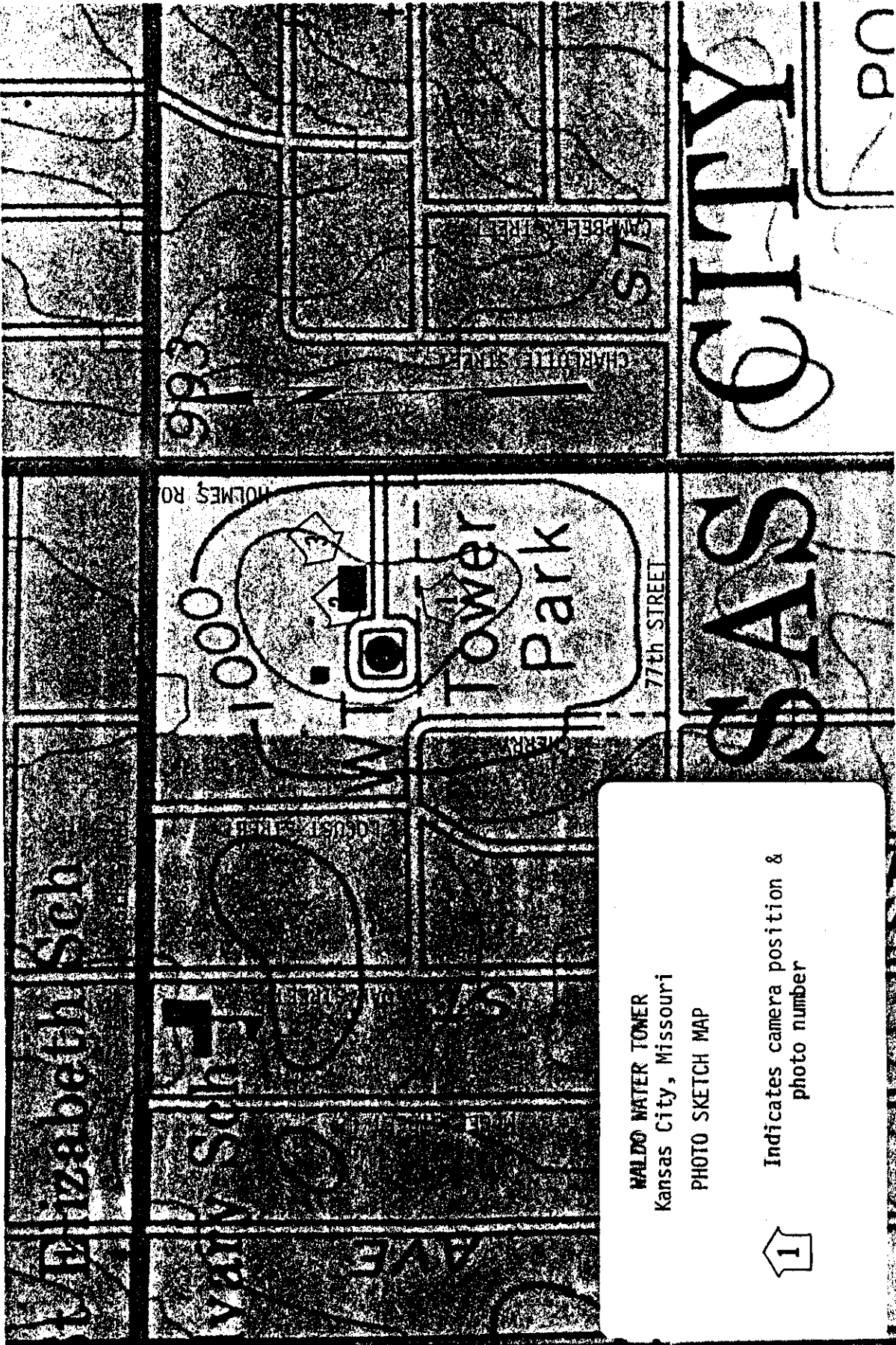
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

2. NORTH ARROW

3. UTM REFERENCES

SITE PLAN MAP





WALDO WATER TOWER  
Kansas City, Missouri

PHOTO SKETCH MAP



Indicates camera position &  
photo number



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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AND/OR COMMON

Frank T. Riley Memorial

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

County Jackson

STATE Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S.

7.5'

Grandview Quadrangle

SCALE

Not to scale

DATE

November, 1976

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

PHOTO SKETCH MAP - camera positions and  
corresponding photo numbers indicated.

MALDO WATER TOWER

COUNTY:

Jackson

LOCATION:

Tower Park, 75th Street & Holmes Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

OWNER:

ADDRESS:

Water Department, City of Kansas City  
414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64106

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

03-05-76

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY:

(03-09-76) 01-06-77

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

(03-12-76) 01-06-77

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

(03-16-76)

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

04-18-77

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE  
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Waldo Water Tower has been a Kansas City, Missouri, landmark since its completion in March, 1920. The tower is recognized as an American Water Landmark by the American Water Works Association. The design successfully employed contemporary construction techniques on an ambitious scale. The tower originally bore the name of Frank Teal Riley Memorial.

Waldo Water Tower

Rc Mrs. Jackson Co. photo 1

David Stockwell

1975

view from the southeast looking northwest.



Waldo Water Tower photo 2

RC no.

1975 southwest  
view from the northeast looking southwest.





photo 3.

Waldo Water Tower  
Kansas City, Jackson County  
Edward J. Myszczuk - October 1976

Waldo Pumping Station: view looking southwest with the  
east facade on the left and the west facade on  
the right. The water tower is in the background.

